

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Advocate-General*): In calculating the $\frac{1}{4}$ share, the value of the property is taken into consideration. We are there concerned only with the remaining properties.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): There is already one explanation here. This explanation has to be numbered 2. You must either delete that explanation or number it as explanation 2.

Amendment put and negatived

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur-Rural*): I do not wish to move my amendment.

Clause 2 of the bill put and carried

Clause I, preamble and title put and carried

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Advocate-General*): I move that the bill be taken up and finally passed tomorrow.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): I second it.

Motion put and carried

The Cochin Fisheries Act (Amendment) Bill

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): Sir, I beg to present the Select Committee Report on the Cochin Fisheries Act (Amendment) Bill and move that the Bill be taken into consideration. I think a short statement of facts will be necessary. There were 7 members in the Select Committee and the majority has supported the amendment brought by the Government in the first instance. The 3 members who have appended a dissenting minute have stated as follows. "We are agreed on the principle of the amendment brought forward, but the *parambas* contemplated by the Bill are mostly assessed as cocoanut gardens while actually they are not suitable for cocoanut plantation, unless they are replaced and made unfit for prawn fishing. They are thus more than heavily taxed. We are therefore of opinion that *parambas* assessed as *payattupattam parambas* alone need be brought under the purview of the amending Bill. The amendment may therefore be as follows.—After the word "wet lands" add the words "and *payattupattam* lands" in sections 5 (a), (b) and (c)." In other words the difference between the members is only this. The majority is for accepting the Government position that prawn fishing in *parambas* or *payattupattam* lands as well as accretion lands which carry an assessment of Rs. 5 should be taxed. The object of the Government was to bring in those *parambas* in the category of taxable lands. The minority wants to

limit the amendment to *payattupattam parambas* which carry an assessment of Re. 1. With regard to the argument portion that even initially they are heavily taxed and that therefore this additional burden should not be imposed, when once the principle is conceded, it would be very difficult to limit the *payattupattam parambas* alone. Hence my submission is that the majority report may be accepted by the House.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): I second it.

Motion put and carried

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): In clause 2, for the existing explanation the following may be substituted. "*For the purposes of sections 5 (a), 5 (b) and 5 (c) the term "wet lands" include parambas assessed as payattupattam parambas as well as puduval accretion parambas not assessed at the normal rate of Rs. 13—2—0 per acre.*" The original amendment proposed by the Select Committee was not quite accurate in wording, because it referred to the areas as gardens. The word "gardens" is not used in the Settlement or the Land Revenue Manual. The word used will lead to misconception. It was therefore thought necessary to make the intention more clear by defining "wet lands" more clearly so as to make the object of the Bill more clear.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Will not all the *parambas* include in this?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): No. It includes only *parambas* assessed as *payattupattam parambas* and *puduval accretion parambas*. Therefore the other *parambas* will not come in under "wet lands". It does not include anything else.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Then why not say "means" instead of "includes".

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): We cannot say "means" because the reference originally is to *nilams*. The reference is to "wet lands" or "*nilams*". We have to say that wet lands or *nilams* include *parambas*, etc.

Amendment put and carried

Clause 2 put and carried

Clause 1, preamble and title put and carried

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*): I move that the Bill be taken up and finally passed tomorrow.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): I second it.

Motion put and carried